

Amendments to the claims:

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1. (Currently amended) A method for data backup, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a subscriber server for backing up at least one data increment which was previously transmitted between said subscriber server and at least one service provider;

identifying said at least one data increment which was previously provided to a subscriber server or generated by a subscriber server and which is to be backed up;

checking said at least one service provider access server to determine if it has a copy of at least a portion of the identified data increment or can regenerate or replicate at least a portion of the identified data increment; and

backing up the data increment using the copy or regenerated or replicated portion from the access server if it is found and otherwise using a copy sent from the subscriber server after the checking step.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying at least one data increment includes:

evaluating one of a data stamp, time stamp, sequence number, source address, URL and checksum of the data increment at the subscriber server; and

sending an identifier for each identified data increment to a service provider data backup server.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of checking at least one service provider access server is conducted by the service provider data backup server.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein if the at least one service provider

access server has the copy or regenerated or replicated portion of the identified data increment, a checksum is computed to determine if the subscriber server copy contains the same data as the copy or regenerated or replicated portion.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein if a copy is sent from the subscriber server after the checking step, back up is delayed for a time period.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of backing up includes backing up the data increment to a service provider data backup server.

7. (Currently cancelled)

8. (Currently cancelled)

9. (Currently cancelled)

10. (Currently cancelled)

11. (Currently cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

means for receiving a request from a subscriber server for backing up at least one data increment which was previously transmitted between said subscriber server and at least one service provider;

means for identifying said at least one data increment ~~which was previously provided to a subscriber server or generated by a subscriber server and which is to be backed up;~~

means for checking said at least one service provider access server to determine if it has a copy of at least a portion of the identified data increment or can regenerate or replicate at least a portion of the identified data increment; and

means for backing up the data increment using the copy or regenerated or replicated portion

from the access server if it is found ~~and otherwise using a copy sent from the subscriber server~~  
~~after the checking step.~~

A<sub>1</sub> 13. (Newly added) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of using a copy sent from the subscriber server after the checking step if it has not found a copy of at least a portion of the identified data increment or can regenerate or replicate at least a portion of the identified data increment.

14. (Newly added) The method of claim 12, further comprising means for backing up the data increment using a copy sent from the subscriber server after the checking step if it has not found a copy of at least a portion of the identified data increment or can regenerate or replicate at least a portion of the identified data increment

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